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June 3, 2015
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For Immediate Release

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Georgian Delegation presents “Exceptional Opportunity” for both Wisconsin and Georgia

MADISON, Wis. – Fourteen correctional officials from the country of Georgia are currently touring the Department of Correction’s facilities. The delegation arrived on May 24 and will depart on June 6.

DOC Secretary Ed Wall said, “The Wisconsin DOC is honored to have been chosen by the US State Department INL to partner with the Republic of Georgia in prison reforms.” Wall stated the training mission “has been an exceptional opportunity for both countries to exchange ideas and work toward the best possible outcomes for incarcerated populations.”

Tony Streveler, DOC Director of Research and Policy, said, “Participants will gain a basic understanding of managing a correctional institution, including how an inmate is processed into an institution, classified, managed, accesses programs, and is released through shadowing U.S. corrections staff.”

Streveler said the delegation should come away with an understanding of “what may be applicable to Rustavi #16,” a prison set to open once the delegates return to Georgia.

The Georgian delegation includes an adviser to the Minister of Corrections, the warden, and deputy warden of Rustavi #16, as well as several inspectors for the Regime Unit at Rustavi #16.

The group will visit Dodge Correctional Institution, Drug Abuse Correctional Center in Winnebago, Oshkosh Correctional Institution, and Redgranite Correctional Institution. Before departing, the delegation will visit the DOC central office in Madison on June 5.

Streveler hopes the delegation will the come away with an understanding of the United States correctional system. He added the group will focus on “creating re-entry plans, building support for multi-disciplinary team structure (unit management), and communicating change and vision to staff.”

On Georgia and Wisconsin’s continuing relationship, Secretary Wall said, “The Georgian Ministry of Corrections has been very open and forward leaning in their desire to reform their systems and we look forward to using the partnerships we have built to work with them.”

